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FROM:

Mariar Balow, Chairperson
Portland Housing Authority Board of Commissioners
14 Baxter Boulevard
Portland, Maine 04101

Portland Housing Authority Hires New Executive Director

The Portland Housing Authority Board of Commissioners is pleased to announce the hiring of Cheryl A. Sessions as its new Executive Director. Ms. Sessions replaces Mark Adelson who had been Executive Director since 2010 and has been with the agency since 2004.

Ms. Sessions joined PHA in October 2017 as its Deputy Executive Director. Before joining PHA, she served 4 years as Deputy Director at the Lewiston Housing Authority. She holds both a Juris Doctorate degree from the University of New Hampshire School of Law and a Certification by National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) in Executive Management. She is experienced as both a real estate finance/business attorney and a real estate broker. After experience in the private sector and serving as In-House Counsel for the New Hampshire Community Loan Fund, a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI), she went on to help develop and serve as In-House Counsel for ROC USA a very successful national CDFI that works to create resident owned manufactured home communities.

At PHA, she has been instrumental in working with PHA's development team on the agency's long-term plans to reposition the ownership and financing of its Public Housing inventory. The goal of this conversion is to undertake the major renovation and redevelopment of this important affordable housing inventory and to add more housing in the process. Cheryl has also served for several years on the Executive Board for the New England Regional Council of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NERC-NAHRO).

PHA Chairperson Mari Balow added, "we look forward to Cheryl's leadership for many years to come, as the agency undertakes this important transition of our properties and continue to serve Portland's affordable housing needs."

The Portland Housing Authority owns and manages 1,226 affordable apartments in Portland and administers 1,975 subsidized rental vouchers. In total they serve over 6,200 residents.